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AD386040

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP
APO 96295

AVFA-AT-52-CO

5 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1966 RCS (CSFORp65)

TO: See Distribution

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Section I: Significant Unit Activities

A. 52d Artillery Group units continued support of 1st Cavalry Division (AM) and 3d Brigade, 25 Infantry Division in Operation Paul Revere II until 23 August 1966. On 24 August, Group units supported elements of the 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Operation Paul Revere III.

B. On 1 September, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery and on 23 September Battery A, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery provided artillery support to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division for Operation Seward (rice harvest protection).

C. Provisional Battery F, 52d Artillery Group, consisting of four 105mm towed howitzers, was organized on 24 September 1966, with the mission of providing artillery support in defense of local installations and to assist in the defense of Pleiku Defense Complex. Personnel to service the artillery battery perform these functions in addition to their primary mos.

D. On 27 September, 52d Artillery Group Executive Officer and S-3 with support personnel departed Artillery Hill for participation in I FFORCEV Artillery FSCC in support of Operation Irving. FSCC mission was coordination of non-divisional combat support of ARVIN, ROK, and US Forces.

E. On 1 October, the 3d Howitzer Battalion, 18th Artillery consisting of two 8" howitzer batteries and one 175mm gun battery was released from attachment to the 1st Cavalry Division (AM) and attached to 52d Artillery Group. Unit provided support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM) in Operation Thayer.

F. Battery B, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and Battery C, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery provided artillery support for 3-nation operation from 2-22 October designated Operation Irving.

G. Battery B, 29th Artillery (Searchlights) was detached in place from 1st Cavalry Division (AM) and attached to 52d Artillery Group on 6 October. Battery headquarters was moved from An Khe to collocate with 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery, vic Qui Nhon (BR 981257) on 6 October and further attached to that battalion for rations, quarters and administration.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966

H. 52d Artillery Group was released from attachment, Headquarters, I FFORCEV and attached to Headquarters, I FFORCEV Artillery on 8 October.

I. Advance party, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery landed QuiNhon on 13 October. Main body arrived 26 October. Unit base camp was established vic BR 879542 (Hammond Air Base).

J. Operation Paul Revere III terminated on 22 October and Operation Paul Revere IV commenced 23 October with continued 52d Artillery Group support consisting of the 3d Howitzer Battalion, 6th Artillery, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery, and A Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery.

K. The 237th FA Detachment (Counter Mortar Radar) was released from attachment I FFORCEV and attached to 52d Artillery Group on 25 October.

L. On 25 October A Battery, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery was transferred from Tuy Hoa to Plei Djereng (less equipment) as a composit 8"/175mm battery where it joined its parent battalion OPCON to the 4th Infantry Division in Paul Revere IV. B Battery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery was transferred on same date from An Khe to Tuy Hoa and further attached to 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery for participation in Operation Seward in support of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. All batteries of 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery, and 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery have completed reorganization as composit 8"/175mm Batteries.

M. On 25 October, Operation Seward was terminated and Operation Adams commenced on 26 October. 52d Artillery Group continued support with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, and Battery B, 3d Battalion, 15th Artillery.

Section II: Commanders Observations and Recommendations.

Part I. Observation (Lessons Learned)

ITEM: Aviation Support of 52d Artillery Group and Attached Artillery Units

DISCUSSION: 52d Artillery Group Headquarters and Headauarters Battery has no organic aircraft and limited capability exists within the units attached. Units under Group control are deployed in tactical missions from Pleiku Province Fast to Qui Nhon and South to Tuy Hoa. Artillery battalions have their organic batteries spread as far as 120 miles apart. Organic aircraft assigned within the 52d Artillery Group units consists of 6 aircraft of the observation L-19 and H-13 type. These are organic to the 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery, and 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery. Due to limited amount of organic aircraft available and the small passenger capability of these aircraft, command, control, and liaison among these units has become increasingly difficult. Rapid replacement of repair parts for inoperative artillery weapons in field locations had been delayed by nonavailability of aircraft to transport qualified maintenance personnel and repair parts to these locations. Field locations of many units preclude

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966

the use of fixed wing aircraft. UH-1D aircraft support provided on a mission type basis from aviation support agencies within I FFORCEV has been inadequate.

OBSERVATION: 52d Artillery Group requires UH-1D aircraft support on a higher priority basis than provided in the past on a mission type basis for command and control missions and maintenance support of artillery field locations.

ITEM: Differences in TOE between the 8" howitzer battalion and the 175mm gun battalion complicates formation of composite heavy artillery battalions.

DISCUSSION: Experience indicates the preferred method of employing heavy artillery in RVN is to form composite batteries of two weapons each. The two weapons are compatible and complementary. Equipment authorizations are essentially the same for each type battalion but vary in the types of radios, additional shop vans, tool sets, etc.

OBSERVATION: A composite battalion provisional TOE should be published for use in Viet Nam.

ITEM: The generator PU-107 power supply for the AN/MPQ-4 radar set is inadequate.

DISCUSSION: The PU-107 fails to perform satisfactorily in meeting the requirements placed upon it in Viet Nam. Radars are required to operate continuously for 12 hours per day. Recently received rebuilt models have failed in a much shorter time than programmed. The program for providing standby PU-107s have failed to insure required reliability. DA Form 2407, EIR control number R65385, has been submitted on this item.

OBSERVATION: A new power source, preferably diesel, should be issued for the AN/MPQ-4 Radar.

ITEM. One officer is required as assistant S-4 in an artillery group.

DISCUSSION: The artillery group in RVN will normally be involved in considerable planning and supervising of base camp construction activities in addition to the heavy administrative load required in the requisitioning and receipt of supplies and rendering of reports to higher headquarters. These duties places an overburden on the austere S-4 staff. The supply problems in combat resupply to units operational areas with the limited staff precludes the personal supervision of tactical resupply in field locations.

OBSERVATION: The S-4 of an artillery group should be authorized an assistant in the grade of Captain.

ITEM: Aerial Observers

DISCUSSION: The artillery group has a requirement for visual reconnaissance

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966

for target acquisition, evaluation of observed missions and for routine reconnaissance. Further, reconnaissance is required by air to maximum mortar range from base camps. These requirements exist outside maneuver element areas of operation. No aerial observers are authorized for this.

OBSERVATION: The artillery group headquarters and headquarters battery TOE (6-401E) should be augmented by two aerial observers.

ITEM: Liaison Officers

DISCUSSION: An artillery group in RVN has requirements to furnish liaison parties to each major maneuver element supported. In the case of the 52d Artillery Group, a liaison officer is required to II Corps Headquarters with added duty as liaison to Pleiku Sector and Special Forces. An additional liaison officer is required to the 4th Infantry Division and one to the 1st Cavalry Division (AM). Only one liaison party is authorized. This party would normally be sent to the next higher artillery headquarters.

OBSERVATION: A need exists for modification of TOE (6-401E) to authorize one additional liaison party.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That each battalion and group headquarters battery be authorized an aviation section for command, control and observation requirements. In addition, recommend one helicopter, UH-1D aircraft be allocated on a higher priority to the group for delivery of critical parts and personnel to field locations and for proper command supervision of subordinate units.
2. That a TOE be published for a composite 8"/175mm battalion for standardization of personnel and equipment.
3. That a reliable 400 cycle generator be issued to power the radar set AN/MPQ-4.
4. That TOE 6-401D be modified for RVN to add one liaison section complete, one captain as assistant S-4 and two forward observers in the grade of lieutenant.

O. L. TOBIASON
Colonel Artillery
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-D (5 Nov 66)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65) (52d Arty Gp) (U)

HEADQUARTERS 1 FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350 3 DEC 1966

TO: Commanding General, 1 FFORCEV, ATTN: AVFA-GC-Q&T APO 96350

1. This headquarters concurs with and strongly recommends approval of the observations and recommendations contained in the basic communication.

2. Aviation support for non-divisional artillery units in 1 FFORCEV has been and continues to be a serious problem. Separate correspondence will be submitted on this subject:

3. Action has been initiated by this headquarters to provide:

a. A draft TOE for a composite 175-mm/8-inch battalion.

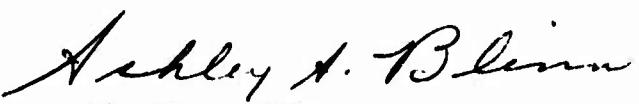
b. A recommendation for modification of TOE 6-401D which will incorporate the following:

(1) An additional Liaison Section.

(2) An Assistant S4.

(3) Two Aerial Observers.

4. The PU-107 power supply for the radar set AN/MPQ4 has not met the operational requirements for the conditions found in RVN. Until a satisfactory power source can be developed, a second PU-107 has been authorized on the basis of one per radar set. This unit is to be used as a stand-by power source. At the present time all units possessing an AN/MPQ4 have the second generator on requisition but not on hand.



ASHLEY A. BLINN
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFA-GC-OAT (5 Nov 66)

2d Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 October 1966 RCS (CSFOR-65) (C)

Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO US Forces 96350 17 DEC 1966

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO US Forces 96307

(C) The following comments are based on this headquarters' review
of the 52d Artillery Group Operational Report of Lessons Learned:

a. Section II, Part I, Item (Aviation Support of 52d Artillery
Group and Attached Artillery Units):

(1) It is recognized that UH-1D helicopter support to
the 52d Artillery Group has been, and will continue to be, austere due
to critical shortage of aircraft and higher priority requirements of
combat maneuver elements.

(2) Requests for fixed wing transport of spare parts,
critical items and/or maintenance personnel have not been received at
this headquarters.

(3) Submission of a MMOR request for UH-1D aircraft, to
replace or augment assigned OH-13 aircraft, has been recommended.
Additionally, the programmed arrival of Light Observation Helicopters
(LOH), to replace divisional OH-13 and OH-23 helicopters, will result
in priority redistribution of aircraft assets to units as required.

b. Section II, Part I, (Recommendations): The recommendation
that each battalion and group headquarters be authorized an aviation
section for command, control and observation requirements is valid;
however, exception is taken to the implied employment of one UH-1D
helicopter for sole delivery of spare parts and personnel to field
locations. Support of this nature should be confined to individual,
high priority mission requests.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

William H. James
WILLIAM H. JAMES
COLONEL, AGC
ADJUTANT GENERAL

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AVHGC-DH (5 Nov 66)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 81 DEC 1966

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1966 from Headquarters, 52d Artillery Group as indorsed.
2. Reference Section II, Part 1, Page 3; Paragraph 3, Page 4; and Paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement: Unit does not include sufficient detail regarding this problem for this headquarters to assist. A request for specific data, including maintenance experience and document number of requisitions submitted, has been initiated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



R. J. THORNTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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GPOP-OT (5 Nov 66) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 13 JAN 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

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INCLUSION(S) _____

gmcnullin
G. L. McMULLIN
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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